

BRASS BANDS WILL NOT BUILD ROADS SAYS J. M. LOWE

J. M. Lowe, president of the National Old Trails Road association, believes there is too much road building to the brass band accompaniment. The county boards accept the plaudits of their constituents for obtaining approval of road projects, and then lie down on the job. The federal aid act has proved a failure, Mr. Lowe believes.

"The Jefferson City report, in The Star December 22 on 'State Roads on Paper', was brimful of valuable suggestions, especially so as followed up by your editorial of December 24," the veteran good roads booster said.

"It is evident that there is some serious underlying cause for the absolute failure of road building under the federal aid act. Up to the first of last March only forty-five miles of roads, in detached sections, none of them longer than nine miles, had been built in the whole United States. I have seen no report of what has been done under this bill in 1919, but it is pretty safe to judge of accomplishments elsewhere when it is stated that it is only asserted twenty-two miles have been built in Missouri, and this includes gravel and other cheap types.

"In Kansas, only five and one-half miles have been completed. It is asserted there, too, that twelve miles have been turned over to the public for use, but it will not be asserted in fact that even the five and one-half miles mentioned are in fully completed condition so that the contractor can call down his money. It is also asserted that Missouri has completed twenty-two miles when, in fact, only \$9,000 has been paid by Uncle Sam, who never pays until the road is completed, and this is a mighty fine test of just what has been done in road building.

Distributes the Blame.

"Where does the fault lie? Some of it undoubtedly is at the Washington end of the line, and some of it perhaps pertains to the state highway boards.

"After all, it might be well to understand just what function these highway boards perform. Up to the present, and especially west of the Mississippi, the chief function seems to be to act as a clearing house through which federal and local moneys are handled. They have no state road funds, and hence are compelled to wait on the slow action of county commissioners and county courts. And there lies, I apprehend, the chief difficulty in the whole situation. Even when county and township and road districts have carried bond elections the local authorities have refused to sell the bonds and commence work.

"They are all ready to go up to the state capital and get the 'project approved,' and go home to meet the brass band, and announce what they have accomplished; and the state highway boards, as a rule, are eager to join in the acclamation that there have been so many 'projects approved'

"LITTLE BOY BLUE"

The little toy dog is covered with dust,
But sturdy and staunch he stands;
And the little toy soldier is red with rust,
And his musket molds in his hands.
Time was when the little toy dog was new
And the soldier was passing fair,
And that was the time when our Little Boy Blue
Kissed them and put them there.

"Now, don't you go till I come," he said,
"And don't you make any noise!"
So toddling off to his trundle bed
He dreamt of the pretty toys,
And as he was dreaming, an angel song
Awakened our Little Boy Blue,—
Oh, the years are many, the years are long,
But the little toy friends are true.

Ay, faithful to Little Boy Blue they stand,
Each in the same old place,
Awaiting the touch of a little hand,
The smile of a little face.
And they wonder as waiting these long years through,
In the dust of the little chair,
What has become of our Little Boy Blue
Since he kissed them and put them there.

—Eugene Field.

in their states, and all, without exception, are clamorous for an additional appropriation under the federal aid act, for the purpose, I suppose, of having more 'projects approved.'

Project Ready, Rejected It.

"I know of an instance recently, where the county commissioners, after having their 'project approved,' really advertised for bids, and received a number of responsible bids to do the work, and then turned it down for the reason, as publicly stated, that someone would have to put up a guaranty that Uncle Sam would keep his promise, and contribute his portion of the funds under the federal aid act—in other words, obey the law.

"Now what ought to be done with such a set of pigheaded commissioners? Here, I think, lies the chief difficulty in the whole situation, but there is an additional one that is worth mentioning and that is, that as a rule these state highway boards have not been financed and equipped to do the enormous work that has fallen upon them, and particularly on the state engineering department. In Kansas, I am told, the state engineer has less than \$20,000 appropriated to equip his office and carry on all the work of building the proposed large system of roads. He has three assistant engineers, and it is utterly out of the question that he can perform the details of his office either to his own or to the public satisfaction without a very much increased appropriation.

"That we shall never build roads under the federal aid act worth while until the states are enabled to co-operate by having state funds, is illustrated by the experience we have had in building the National Old Trails road. East of the Mississippi, where state funds were provided, either by

additional taxation or by state bond issues, they have the entire road either built or under contract, from tide-water on the Atlantic to the Mississippi river. November 12 contracts were closed for the largest stretch of continuous road ever let in the history of the world, and that was for building the National Old Trails road entirely across Illinois at an average cost of \$30,000 per mile. Indiana is rebuilding it, principally of concrete, east and west of Indianapolis. Most of the road, however, in that state is already of a very high class.

"Had a State Fund Available.
"Now this was accomplished because a state highway fund was available and it was not necessary to bother with local officials and resort to all sorts of persuasive means to get action.

"West of the Mississippi only two states have accepted federal aid in the spirit in which that law was enacted, to-wit: California and Oregon, and in those states they are building magnificently. Yet, notwithstanding all these facts, strange as it may seem, some of the western states, and many of the state highway boards, are opposed to a national system of roads on some fancied ground that it might interfere with 'state's rights,' or something of that kind. This is coming, too, from states where it is absolutely impossible to build a state road under the federal aid act, which requires the state, or people, to match dollars with the general government."—Kansas City Star.

GIVE HIM HIS DUE

Without any aspersions on the First division, it is really Colonel House who was the first to go over and the last to come back.

News of Soldiers and Sailors

LEGION HEAD PROTESTS AGAINST RETURNING MEN WOUNDED TO CIVIL LIFE

A letter to the legislative committee of the American Legion in Washington, urging efforts to have modified the recent order of the war department for the release to civil life of service men who had been under treatment in hospitals for more than twelve months, was mailed from the national headquarters of the organization. The letter signed by Franklin d'Olier, national commander, supplements a resolution seeking the same object adopted last week by the executive committee of the organization here.

"Officers and enlisted men confined in hospitals received full pay," the letter said. "When returned to civil life tubercular and other incurables will receive but six to thirty dollars a month. We want such action by the war department postponed until provision will have been made for these men by congressional legislation and sixty to ninety days allowed for the formation of the necessary government organizations for carrying out the provisions after such legislation.

"Theoretically, the public health service is supposed to have an organization to take care of these men. As a matter of fact, they have not the hospitals to care for the men, nor has sufficient appropriation ever been made by congress for this service. The war department order would throw on public charity the responsibility of caring for a large number of these sick.

"A compromise offer was made permitting men to remain in the hospitals more than twelve months where but two or three months additional treatment would be required for complete recovery. This showed a lack of appreciation of the real situation. It is not so much for the care of those confined by temporary illness that concerns us as to the future of thousands of incurables who would be returned to civil life with inadequate means of support and inability to earn a livelihood for themselves."—Stars and Stripes.

How They Said It.

In France the word "nigger" was never used by the allies in addressing the colored doughboys, and the French had no word for "mulatto." Private Rastus Brown, just returned, was explaining this to his friends.

"Some of us," he said, "wuz described as 'beaucoup de chocolat' and de others wuz 'cafe au lait.'"

We Understand.

"I thought you said you knew something about cooking?" said a sergeant to a recruit.

"I did say so," the recruit replied. "Well, how do you make hash?" "You don't make it; it just accumulates."

Irreverent Soldier.

John Hall, of Hutchinson, Kan., one of the soldiers now at Pittsburg, Kan., on account of the strike situation, says while "over there" last year he was shown an old church.

"A great many people sleep here," said the guide, showing the inscriptions on the floor.

"Same way in America," replied Hall. "Why don't they get a more interesting preacher?"

Rank.

"Wonder why that newly returned captain salutes his wife?" "She underwent a major operation while he was away."

SUMMONS

In the Justice Court of Flagstaff Precinct, Coconino County, State of Arizona.

Lewis E. Johnson, plaintiff, vs. Jesse Russell, defendant—Summons. Action brought in the Justice Court of Flagstaff Precinct, in and for the county of Coconino, in the State of Arizona.

In the name of the State of Arizona, to Jesse Russell, defendant, greeting: You are hereby summoned and required to appear in an action brought against you by the above named plaintiff in the Justice Court of Flagstaff Precinct, in and for the County of Coconino, in the State of Arizona, an answer to the complaint filed in said Justice Court, at Flagstaff, in said County, within five days exclusive of the day of service, after the service upon you of this Summons, if served within this Precinct; but if served without this Precinct, but within the County, ten days; if served out of the County, fifteen days; in all other cases, twenty days, or judgment by default will be taken against you.

Given under my hand at Flagstaff this 2nd day of December, 1919.
ROBT. J. KIDD,
Justice of the Peace of said Precinct.
Jan 2 to 23.

DOES ANYBODY KNOW THORLEFF MORK?

If you see him, tell him the American Red Cross has word from his parents in Norway. He can get in touch with the Red Cross through the Department of Civilian Relief at Pacific division headquarters, 826 Mission street, San Francisco, California, or the Northern division headquarters of the American Red Cross at 423 Fifth street, South, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Mork was with the United States army during the war and was discharged at Camp Dodge, Iowa, in March, 1919. He has tried to communicate with his parents for two years. The letters in reply are now being held for him at the Minneapolis address.

Application for Grazing Permits.

NOTICE is hereby given that all applications for permits to graze cattle, horses, swine, sheep and goats within the COCONINO NATIONAL FOREST during the season of 1920 must be filed in my office at Flagstaff, Arizona, on or before January 15, 1920. Full information in regard to the grazing fees to be charged and blank forms to be used in making applications will be furnished upon request.
E. G. MILLER, Supervisor.
12-19-4t

G. N. BATY

PIONEER PAINTER

AND

PAPER HANGER

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Must Increase Price of the "Sun" to \$3.00

In order to cover the increased cost of print paper and supplies, the subscription price of The Coconino Sun will be increased to

\$3.00 per year after February 1st, 1920

And 10c per Single Copy

News print has advanced 300 per cent above normal prices and is difficult to secure at any price.

All Subscriptions will be taken at the old price of \$2.50 per year up to February 1st, 1920.

Avail Yourself of this Opportunity NOW

WE WISH YOU ALL a Most Happy and Prosperous New Year, thank you, one and all, for your kind patronage during the year just past and assure you that we shall do all we can to merit your continued patronage during 1920.

J. Herman Dry Goods and Clothing Co.